

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 00712 180643Z

17

ACTION EA-14

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 NSCE-00 EB-11 SAJ-01 NIC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9298

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 0712

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: PEKING REWORKS WORLD DISORDER THEME

SUMMARY: THE RELATIVELY BLAND YEAR-END PEOPLE'S DAILY ITEM ON "WORLD DISORDER" WAS FOLLOWED WITH AN NCNA COMMENTARY WHICH REWORKED AND BROADENED THE ASPECTS OF "DISORDER." THIS PIECE TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL OTHER RECENT NCNA ARTICLES IS IN PART AN ATTEMPT TO ENCOMPASS WITHIN THE "GREAT DISORDER" WELTANSCHAUUNG, INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS, MOST IMPORTANTLY THE THREAT OF AN ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE CAPITALIST WORLD. DIFFERENCES IN NCNA'S TREATMENT OF THE "GREAT DISORDER" THEME WITH THAT OF PEOPLE'S DAILY AND CHOU EN-LAI'S CONGRESS REPORT MAY ALSO REFLECT DIVERGENT TENDENCIES WITHIN THE REGIME ON THE INTERPRETATION OF SOME CURRENT WORLD PROBLEMS. END  
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PAGE 02 HONG K 00712 180643Z

SUMMARY.

1. A DECEMBER 31 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE WORLD ADVANCES AMIDST GREAT DISORDER" TREATED THE WORLD SITUATION IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE EMPLOYED BY CHOU EN-LAI IN HIS REPORT TO THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS LAST AUGUST. NCNA HOWEVER ON JANUARY 8 CARRIED AN UNUSUAL CORRESPONDENT COMMENTARY WHICH REWORKED AND BROADENED THE WORLD DISORDER THEME. THE NCNA ARTICLE, MORE PROVOCATIVELY ENTITLED "WORLD IN GREAT DISORDER, EXCELLENT SITUATION" CARRIED A WHIFF OF PRE-1971 THEMES WHICH GLORIFIED WAR AND CHAOS. NOTING TURBULENCE AROUND THE WORLD, THE WRITER IMPLIED SATISFACTION WITH THE FACT THAT IN 1973 "THE SOUND OF GUNS DID NOT CEASE AND THE FLAMES OF WAR DID NOT DIE OUT."

2. NCNA REITERATED THE STANDARD LINE THAT THE ROOT CAUSE OF ALL THIS CHAOS SPRANG FROM TTS CONTENTION OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS FOR HEGEMONY, BUT IT ALSO INCLUDED AMONG THE ELEMENTS OF INTRANQUILITY THE "POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CRISES, INFLATION AND OTHER MALIGNANCIES INHERENT IN THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM," "MASSIVE" LABOR STRIKES IN THE CAPITALIST WORLD AND DEMONSTRATIONS AND INSURRECTIONS BY PEOPLES OF VARIOUS SOVIET NATIONALITIES. WITH APPARENT SATISFACTION THE WRITER NOTED THAT IN SOME CAPITALIST COUNTRIES "CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR'S DAY PASSED IN THE DARK AND COLD."

3. IN ADDITION, THE ARTICLE'S CATALOG OF DISORDERS CITED THE FALL OF THE "THANOM-PRAPHAS CLIQUE IN THAILAND," THE "MASS STRUGGLE" IN SOUTH KOREA AND MILITARY COUPS FROM "SOUTH ASIA TO LATIN AMERICA."

4. THE NCNA ARTICLE SEEMS TO BE IN PART AN ATTEMPT TO ENCOMPASS WITHIN THE "GREAT DISORDER" WELTANSCHAUUNG DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS, MOST IMPORTANTLY THE THREAT OF ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE CAPITALIST WORLD. THE RECENT PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE AND THE JOINT NEW YEAR'S EDITORIAL, HOWEVER, BOTH FAILED TO INCLUDE THE CURRENT

CRISES IN THEIR TREATMENT OF THE ONGOING "GREAT DISORDER." OVER THE PAST MONTH SEVERAL OTHER NCNA ARTICLES HAVE GIVEN AN IDEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN EUROPE, THE U.S. AND JAPAN. THE CRISIS IN JAPAN, FOR EXAMPLE, IS SAID TO HAVE REVEALED THE INHERENT WEAKNESS OF THE JAPANESE ECONOMY, AND MONOPOLY-CAPITALISTS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HONG K 00712 180643Z

IN THE U.S. AND JAPAN HAVE BEEN BLAMED FOR SHIFTING DIFFICULTIES ONTO THE PEOPLE. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, PEKING'S DISAPPROVAL OF THE ARAB OIL EMBARGO HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR BY THE PRC'S OVERALL TREATMENT OF THIS ISSUE AS WELL AS BY PRIVATE COMMENT.

5. THE STRESS ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN THE USSR WAS CARRIED FURTHER IN ANOTHER NCNA ARTICLE ALSO ON JANUARY 8 WHICH ATTACKED SOVIET SUPPRESSION OF POLITICAL DISSIDENTS AND NATIONAL MINORITIES

(HONG KONG 315). EXPOSITION OF THIS THEME CONTRASTS WITH CHOU EN-LAI'S POLITICAL REPORT TO THE PARTY CONGRESS AS WELL AS PEKING'S GREETING ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER RESOLUTION LAST YEAR, BOTH OF WHICH HAD NOTABLY AVOIDED RAISING THE QUESTION OF DISSIDENCE WITHIN THE SOVIET UNION.

6. NCNA'S INCLUSION OF SOUTH KOREAN DOMESTIC UNREST AMONG THE GOOD SIGNS OF "DISORDER" FOLLOWS THE USUAL EMPLOYMENT OF A "MASS RALLY" IN PEKING LAST MONTH TO SUPPORT WAE KOREAN STUDENTS (HONG KONG 12656).

MORE RECENTLY, AFTER NCNA CARRIED TWO INFLAMMATORY PYONGYANG STATEMENTS ABOUT THE DANGER OF WAR ON THE KOREAN PENINSUM, ONE ITEM WAS

CANCELED AND A MORE SUBDUED PEUPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE WAS ISSUED (HONG KONG 505).

7. NCNA OF COURSE REPRESENTS A LOW LEVEL OF COMMENT AND IS THUS FREQUENTLY LESS RESTRAINED THAN PEOPLE'S DAILY. NEVERTHELESS, THE REWORKING OF A SUBJECT JUST COVERED BY PEOPLE'S DAILY, AND THE TONE OF SOME OF THE PASSAGES IN THE JANUARY 8 ARTICLE WERE UNUSUAL. IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT NCNA'S MORE RADICAL TREATMENT OF THE GREAT DISORDER THEME ALSO IN PART REFLECTS DIVERGENT TENDENCIES WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. LEFTISTS, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD PRESUMABLY BE QUICKER THAN OTHERS TO INTERPRET THE CAPITALIST ECONOMIC CRISIS AND DISSIDENCE IN THE SOVIET UNION AS VERIFICATIONS OF CATAclySMIC DOCTRINES SIMILAR TO THOSE WITH WHICH THEY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO PROMOTE RADICAL POLICIES AT HOME. WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT SLANT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NEW SHANGHAI IDEOLOGICAL JOURNAL (HONG KONG 2578). HOWEVER, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT NCNA IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE MORE-TPLEFTIST ELEMENTS IN THE LEADERSHIP. CONSEQUENTLY, THE IDEOLOGICAL BROADENING OF THE WORLD DISORDER MOTIF AT THIS TIME MAY BE MORE AN ATTEMPT TO ACCOMMODATE THE IDEOLOGUES THAN AN EXPRESSION OF CON-

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PAGE 04 HONG K 00712 180643Z

TENTIOUS DEBATE.  
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## Message Attributes

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